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TOWN OF BROOKLINE
Massachusetts
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Andrew M. Pappastergion
Commissioner

January 5, 2017

Board of Selectmen
Town Hall
Brookline, MA 02445


Dear Board Members:

On January 3, 2017 the Board of Selectmen voted approval of the Hybrid Pay As You Throw (HPAYT) waste collection system proposed by the Department of Public Works that included semi-automated collection of wheeled waste carts and Custom-imprinted Plastic Overflow Bags available for purchase at local retailers. The bags would be available to use for any excess waste that is not able to fit within the selected wheeled cart. The attached contract with WasteZero, Inc. (PW17/09) in the amount of \$42,000 provides initial first order funding for the manufacture of 700 cases of bags (40 rolls per case) and includes the marketing and distribution to local retailers. WasteZero, Inc. will also maintain an adequate inventory to facilitate re-order requests from retailers as their supply diminishes. Proceeds from the retail sale of the bags will be collected by WasteZero and returned to the Town monthly as revenue.

Also attached for your approval is an Agreement with Simple Recycling-Massachusetts (PW17/10) for the curbside collection of used clothing and home goods (referred to as "soft recyclables"). Items included are clothing and textiles, shoes, hats, blankets, pillows, curtains and draperies, small appliances and household electronics. This service is free to both the resident and to the Town and collection will be done on regular trash pick-up days using special plastic bags that will be provided at no charge to residents. If a bag is placed curbside and collected, a new bag will be left at the premises for future use. Across the United States, used textiles account for about 5% of the municipal waste stream or about 82 pounds per person per year. By providing separate collection of these waste products, the Town is able to further reduce our solid waste tonnage for disposal and provide recycling benefits to products that would otherwise end up in the waste stream. An added benefit to this service is that the Town would receive \$20 per ton as revenue for all material collected thereby further reducing our overall waste disposal costs.

The Department of Public Works respectfully requests the Board's approval of both contracts as the next step in the implementation of HPAYT in Brookline.

Sincerely,


Andrew M. Pappastergion
Commissioner of Public Works



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**FREE CURBSIDE
CLOTHING & HOME GOODS
RECYCLING PROGRAM**

FREE

**TURN
KEY**

**SIMPLE
& EASY**

**SAVE \$
MAKE \$**

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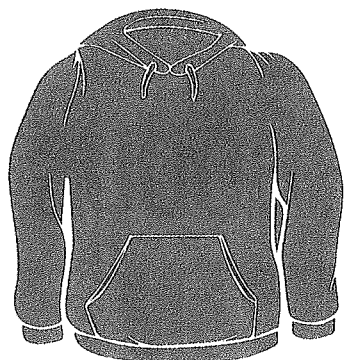
Who is Simple Recycling?

We have over 50 years of experience in clothing & household discard collection

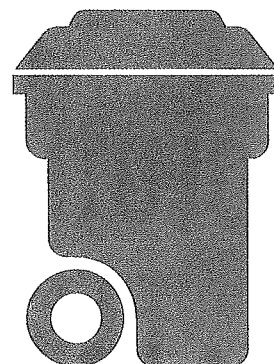
Our sister company manages clothing & household discard donation programs in partnership with non-profit organizations¹

Environmental Impact Facts

Clothing, Appliances, Durables, & Furniture account for 15% of local waste stream



**85% OF TEXTILES
ARE NOT RECYCLED
OR DONATED**



**EPA ESTIMATES
70 LBS./PERSON OF CLOTHING
ARE THROWN AWAY EACH YEAR**

(YOUR CITY'S POPULATION X 70LBS = MILLIONS OF LBS./YEAR)

Source:
1. <http://www.wedonaterecycle.org>

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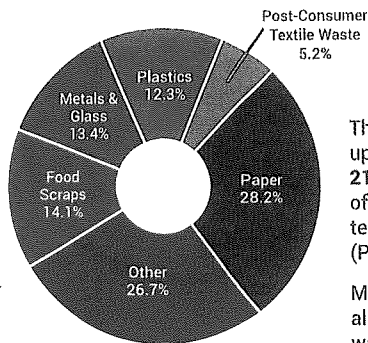
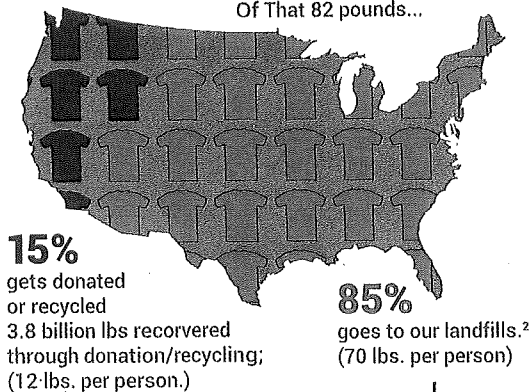
THE FACTS ABOUT TEXTILE WASTE

The U.S. generates an average of **25 BILLION POUNDS** of textiles* per year.¹

That's about **82 POUNDS** per U.S. resident.

* Textiles include clothing, footwear, accessories, towels, bedding, drapery, etc.

Of That 82 pounds...



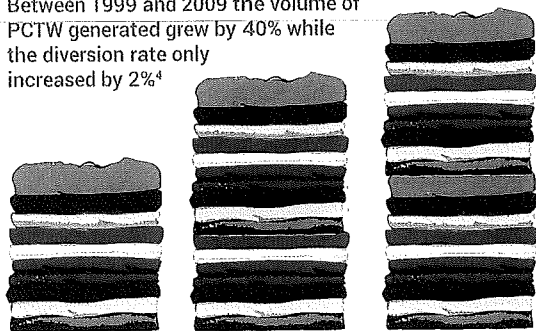
USEPA Municipal Solid Waste Generation

That **85%** adds up to about **21 BILLION POUNDS** of post-consumer textile waste (PCTW) PER YEAR

More than 5.2% of all municipal solid waste generated in the U.S.³

AND THIS AMOUNT IS GROWING

Between 1999 and 2009 the volume of PCTW generated grew by 40% while the diversion rate only increased by 2%⁴



This Model has been Tested & Proven

Excerpt from USA Today, April 23, 2013 -

"Clothes recycling is going curbside in more U.S. towns as global prices rise for the used apparel, shoes and linens that Americans often toss in the trash.

Since September, more than a dozen local governments -- in Arizona, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Washington State -- have begun curbside pickup of textiles, often in special bags next to bins containing paper and cans."²



Source:

2. <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/04/20/recycling-clothes-expands-curbide/2092351/>

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COST TO YOUR RESIDENTS = \$0
COST TO YOUR CITY = \$0



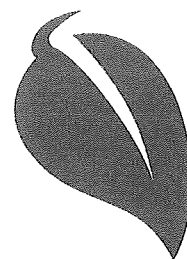
Details & Logistics

Simple Recycling provides:

- Free residential curbside pickup service
- Specially designed recycling collection bags
- All informational materials
- All trucking, pickup expenses & program management
- Local jobs
- All related insurance coverage
- Drop boxes in locations of city's choosing (if desired)

Your city provides:

- Supplemental notification & information to residents

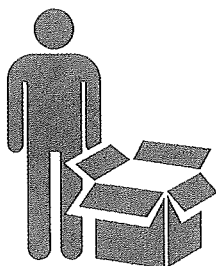


THE LIFE CYCLE OF SECONDHAND CLOTHING

simple
recycling

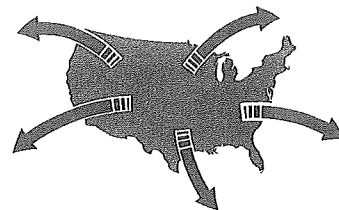
WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR RECYCLED USED CLOTHING?

Once a resident determines that their clothing, shoes, handbags, or household textiles have reached the end of their useful life, materials are collected by Simple Recycling and collected clothing is sorted and graded for condition.



45%

Reused and Repurposed
Majority exported as
secondhand clothing.



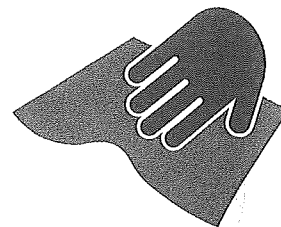
10-20%

Top quality materials are sold to local thrift stores where they create access to low cost clothing and jobs for local residents.



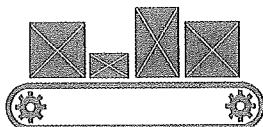
30%

Recycled and Converted
Reclaimed wiping rags
are used in various ways
as industrial and
residential absorbents.



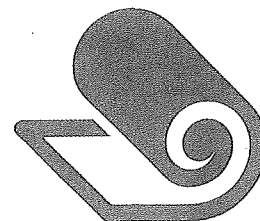
80%

The vast majority of clothing collected is not resaleable in the U.S. so it is further sorted for international export or broken down for raw materials.



20%

Recycled into Fiber
Post-consumer fiber is used to make home insulation, carpet padding, and raw material for the automotive industry.



Only 5% ends up as waste.

Thrift industry employs nearly 100,000 workers in the U.S. with over \$1 billion wages paid. In addition, private sector recyclers create an additional 15,000 to 20,000 jobs nationally.¹

WE MAKE IT SIMPLE

TO DRAMATICALLY REDUCE TEXTILE WASTE.

Source:
1. "Textile Recycling in the U.S." Report submitted to
SMART by Dr. Jana Hawley PhD. Univ. of Missouri 2009

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Textile Recycling Fact Sheet

You and your students are probably used to recycling aluminum, paper, glass, and other items. But did you know that clothing and other textiles can be recycled too? Here are some textile recycling facts to share with your class:

The basics

- The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that the average person throws away **70 pounds** of clothing per year. That adds up to **3.8 billion pounds of unnecessary waste added to our landfills**.
- Clothing and household textiles currently make up **5.2% of the waste in landfills**.
- A textile is any item made from cloth or an artificial fabric like vinyl. Textiles are used for clothing, linens, bedding, upholstery, curtains, carpets, and other items. **Any textile item, even if it's worn, torn, or stained, can be recycled.** You can even recycle a single shoe! Items simply need to be clean and dry.
- Recycling clothing and textiles **decreases the use of natural resources**, such as water used in growing crops and petroleum used in creating new clothing and textiles. It also decreases the need for chemicals used in manufacturing new textiles and the pollution caused by the manufacturing process.

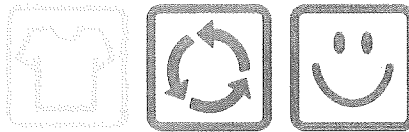
How are recycled textiles used?

- Resold at charities' secondhand clothing stores
- Sent to developing countries
- Turned into wiping cloths, which are used in a variety of industries and businesses (everything from manufacturers to repair shops, construction industries, stores, and maintenance and custodial departments)
- Processed back into fibers and turned into paper, yarn, insulation, carpet padding, and other items

Where can clothing and textiles be recycled?

If your town doesn't accept textiles with other recyclables, donate your items to a local recycling center or charity. **Nearly 100% of donated items are recycled.** The recycling center or charity will determine which items are usable as clothing, which can be sold and turned into wiping rags, and which can be sold and processed back into fibers to make new products. Charities and recyclers generate revenue for their programs, and textiles get a second (or third or fourth) life. To locate a donation center near you, visit www.smartasn.org.

Recycle don't throw away®



More Textile Recycling Facts

What are specific textiles recycled into?

Here are a few examples:

- Stuffed toys and pillows become car seat stuffing and automobile insulation.
- T-shirts, sheets, towels, and clothing become wiping cloths.
- Denim becomes home insulation.
- Shoe soles become paving material.
- Sweaters and coats become carpet padding.
- Curtains and drapes become stuffing for pillows, sleeping bags, and animal beds.
- Wool sweaters and materials become baseball and softball filling.
- Velvet materials become jewelry box lining.
- Leftover fabric scraps become paper money.

Additional resources

- *Something From Nothing* by Phoebe Gilman (Scholastic, 1992); geared for students from preschool to grade 3, this adaptation of a Yiddish folktale follows a piece of fabric as it goes from a baby blanket to a jacket to a vest to a tie, and so on.
- *The Travels of a T-Shirt in the Global Economy* by Pietra Rivoli (John Wiley, 2005); good source of background information about what happens to used clothing.
- *Salaula: The World of Secondhand Clothing and Zambia* by Karen Tranberg Hansen (University of Chicago Press, 2000); good source of information about the used clothing industry in Africa.



Wastes Home

Resource
Conservation Home

Common Wastes and
Materials Home

Consumer Electronics

Household Hazardous
Waste

Paper

Scrap Tires

Used Oil

Information Resources

Laws & Regulations

Educational Materials



Wastes - Resource Conservation - Common Wastes & Materials

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Textiles

Fleece, flannel, corduroy, cotton, nylon, denim, wool, and linen. What can you do with these fibers when you're finished wearing them, sleeping on them, or draping them over your windows? One way to benefit both your community and the environment is to donate used textiles to charitable organizations. Most recovered household textiles end up at these organizations, who sell or donate the majority of these products. The remainder go to either a textile recovery facility or the landfill.

Just the Facts

- An estimated 13.1 million tons of textiles were generated in 2011, or 5.2 percent of total municipal solid waste (MSW) generation.
- An estimated 13.9 percent of textiles in clothing and footwear and 17.6 percent of items such as sheets and pillowcases was recovered for export or reprocessing in 2011.
- The recovery rate for all textiles was 15.3 percent in 2011, 2.0 million tons.

Collecting Textiles

Textiles typically are not sorted at the point of collection, but keeping them clean and free from moisture is important. Once clothes get wet, stained, or mildewed, they cannot be sold for reuse. To prevent contamination, many charities offer enclosed drop-off boxes for clothing or other fabrics. Communities with curbside collection for textiles should educate donors on how to properly bag clothing.

Recycling Textiles

Textile recovery facilities separate overly worn or stained clothing into a variety of categories. Based on data from the Council for Textile Recycling, it was estimated that 1.3 million tons of textiles in clothing were recovered for recycling in 2009. Some recovered textiles become wiping and polishing cloths. Cotton can be made into rags or form a component for new high-quality paper. Knitted or woven woollens and similar materials are "pulled" into a fibrous state for reuse by the textile industry in low-grade applications, such as car insulation or seat stuffing. Other types of fabric can be reprocessed into fibers for upholstery, insulation, and even building materials. Buttons and zippers are stripped off for reuse. Very little is left over at the end of the recycling process. The remaining natural materials, such as various grades of cotton, can be composted.

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More Textiles Information

The Secondary Materials and Recycled Textiles (SMART) Association [EXIT DISCUSS](#) is working to increase the amount of textile waste that can be recovered while developing new uses, products and markets for products derived from preconsumer and postconsumer textile waste.

The Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service has created a fact sheet on household textile and apparel recycling (PDF) (4 pp, 1.5MB, about PDF) [EXIT DISCUSS](#).